

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 22 September 1563 and proved 4 July 1564, of Margaret Saunders Poyntz Skinner, whose sister, Anne Saunders, married Richard Browne, the son of Sir Matthew Browne (d. 6 August 1557), and uncle of Sir Thomas Browne (d. 9 February 1597), who signed Lady Russell's petition against James Burbage's Blackfriars theatre, and whose son Sir Matthew Browne (died c.1603), was the trustee of Nicholas Brend, owner of the land on which the Globe Theatre was built. See the will of Sir Matthew Browne, TNA PROB 11/39/371.

The testatrix was the daughter of Nicholas Saunders (d. 29 August 1553) of Charlwood, Surrey, by Alice Hungate, the daughter of John Hungate of Yorkshire.

The testatrix had three brothers, Sir Thomas Saunders (d. 18 August 1565) of Charlwood, Henry Saunders and Richard Saunders, and a sister, Anne Saunders, who married Richard Browne, as noted above. See:

<http://genealogy.jvans.co.uk/getperson.php?personID=I2475&tree=1>.

See also the will of Sir Thomas Saunders, proved 7 July 1566, TNA PROB 11/48/525, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/saunders-thomas-1513-65>.

The testatrix married firstly John Poyntz (d. 29 November 1544) of Alderley, the son of Sir Robert Poyntz (d. 5 November 1520) of Iron Acton by Margaret Woodville, the illegitimate daughter and only child of Anthony Woodville (c.1440-1483), 2nd Earl Rivers, and Gwentlian Stradling. Anthony Woodville was the brother of Queen Elizabeth Woodville, wife of Edward IV. See the *ODNB* article on Anthony Woodville; and Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 341 and Vol. III, pp. 286-7. For a portrait of John Poyntz by Holbein see:

<http://www.metmuseum.org/collection/the-collection-online/search/338782>.

As noted in the will below, by John Poyntz the testatrix had two sons, the Catholic theologian Robert Poyntz (c.1535-c.1568), and William Poyntz, and two daughters, Alice Poyntz, who married John Skinner (c.1535-1584), great-nephew of the testatrix' second husband, John Skinner (see below), and Elizabeth Poyntz, who married George Eliot. See the will, proved 27 June 1584, of John Skinner, TNA PROB 11/67/178; and the entries for the testatrix and Alice Poyntz at Emerson, *supra*.

The testatrix' first husband, John Poyntz, had earlier been married to Elizabeth Browne, the daughter of Sir Matthew Browne (d. 6 August 1557), and sister of Richard Browne (see above). In the will below the testatrix refers to one of the sons of John Poyntz by Elizabeth Browne ('Mr Matthew Poyntz, my son-in-law [=stepson]').

After John Poyntz' death, Margaret Saunders married, as his third wife, James Skinner (d. 30 July 1558) of Reigate. As noted in the History of Parliament entry, James Skinner died childless, and his heir was his great-nephew, the testatrix' son-in-law, John Skinner (1535-1584). See the will of James Skinner, proved 7 December 1558, TNA PROB 11/42A/68; and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/skinner-james-1489-1558>.

See also Maclean, John, *A Historical and Genealogical Memoir of the Family of Poyntz*, Part II, (Exeter: W. Pollard, 1886), pp. 113-117 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/historicalgeneal02macl#page/114/mode/2up>.

See also:

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/POYNTZ/1999-08/0934979024>.

For the testatrix' overseer, John Skinner the elder (d. 16 November 1571), servant of Sir Anthony Browne (c.1500-1548), see his will, proved 16 February 1572, TNA PROB 11/54/79, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/skinner-john-ii-1509-71>.

For the testatrix' son-in-law, John Skinner, see also the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/skinner-john-1535-84>.

LM: T{estamentum} Margarete Skynner

[f. 170v] In the name of God, Amen. I, Margaret Skinner of Reigate in the county of Surrey, widow, whole and perfect of mind and memory, lauded be God, upon good deliberate advice of my friends do ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, the only Maker, Redeemer and Saviour of the whole world, and my body to be buried in decent and convenient order for my degree without funeral pomp in the aisle where I did usually sit in the parish church of Reigate while I lived, and the same [f. 171r] to be done by th' advice and discretion of mine executors and overseers;

Item, to John Skinner, my son-in-law, and my daughter, Alice, his wife, I give and bequeath all the hangings, tables, trestles, forms, stools, chairs, cupboards, bankers,

cushions, carpets of Turkey work, andirons, pictures and other implements belonging to the great parlour and the hall, one table of needlework of my husband Poyntz' arms, and one picture of Christ hanging on the cross, with one picture of Queen Mary only excepted and forprised out of the said gift and legacy, which said tables I give to Robert Poyntz, my son;

Item, to Robert and William Poyntz, my sons, I give two great featherbeds and bolsters with their pillows, blankets and coverlets as they stand and be in the great chamber over the great parlour, and to every of them 4 pair of sheets and each of them a pair of pillow beres, the one half of the sheets fine and the other of the meaner sort;

And to the same Robert and William I do also give 2 cushions of green satin with garters set on them, and 4 fine cushions of fine verdures, 2 cushions of tawny velvet, equally to be divided amongst them by the discretion of mine executors and overseers;

And to my said son, Robert Poyntz, I do further give and bequeath a little standing cup with a cover all gilt with a flower-de-luce in the midst thereof;

And to the said William Poyntz I give and bequeath a silver salt-cellar with a cover all gilt, and twenty pounds in ready money;

And to every of my said sons I do give a trussing coffer covered with leather and bound with iron, and 4 silver spoons gilt at the broad ends, to be divided between them, and each of them one silver spoon all gilded over;

And further I give to the said John Skinner and my daughter, Alice, his wife, all the hangings, bedding and all the implements in the servants' chamber next adjoining to his own lodging in the parsonage wholly as it standeth;

Item, I do also give and bequeath to the said John [-John] Skinner and my daughter, Alice, his wife, my great bedstead, featherbed, bolsters, pillows, curtains, testers, hangings of old arras, chairs, cupboards and stools, with all other hangings, bedding and implements within the great chamber within the gallery and the servants' inner chamber there, and two featherbeds in my maidens' chamber with all manner of things belonging to them excepting and forprising the greatest cushion of crimson satin and cloth of gold, which cushion I do freely give and bequeath to Elizabeth Eliot, my daughter, with two featherbeds and bolsters, pillows and blankets as they be now and usually have been in the chambers next the little parlour there;

And further I do give and bequeath to the said John Skinner and my daughter, Alice, his wife, one basin and ewer parcel gilt, a nest of goblets with a cover gilt, one great standing silver pot with the Skinners' arms, and 2 gilt salts with a cover and the Skinners' arms on them, and one dozen of silver spoons with knops at th' ends of them gilt;

And to the said John Skinner, my son, and my daughter, Alice, his wife, I give all my pewter vessel of silver fashion marked with an I[=J] and S, with 3 great candlesticks of latten;

Item, I give to my son Skinner's father (if he overlive me) one standing pot of silver with the Skinners' arms upon it;

Item, the residue of all my brass, pewter, latten, spits of iron, pots and pans, with all my pewter vessel not before given nor bequeathed, I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth Eliot and Alice Skinner, my loving daughters, equally to be divided between them by the discretion of my executors and overseers;

And all my linen not before given I also give and bequeath to my said two daughters, Alice Skinner and Elizabeth Eliot, equally to be divided between them by the discretion of my executors and overseers;

And to my daughter Skinner I give and bequeath a little ewer all gilted, and to my son Skinner and her I give two spoons of silver gilted over all;

Item, to my daughter Eliot and Thomas Eliot, my godson, I give and bequeath one salt gilt without a cover, with one trussing coffer covered with leather;

And to my said daughter Eliot I give a little flat piece of silver sometimes Mr John Poyntz her father's deceased;

And to my said godson I do further give and bequeath two silver spoons gilt at the broad ends;

And to my said daughter Eliot and my said godson I do further give and bequeath to each of them one silver spoon gilted overall;

Item, where I have two other salts gilt not before given nor bequeathed, I give and bequeath the one of the same salts with a cover to my sister Browne and her daughter, and the other salt without cover I give to my cousin Skinner, vicar of Reigate;

And to my said sister Browne I give and bequeath 2 cassocks of cloth, two kirtles, and my best hood [sic?] and all that belongeth to it, with the bedding, coverlets, blankets, pillows and tester of say, curtains of buckram and two pair of sheets which I do usually lie upon;

And to my niece, Alice Gosticke, I give and bequeath twenty pounds which Thomas Kynstrott(?) of Gloucestershire oweth me, with my cassock with fringe, a kirtle of black camlet;

And to my niece, Anne Eliot, I bequeath ten pounds towards her marriage;

And for a small remembrance, to Sir Thomas Saunders, my brother, [f. 171v] for his pains taken always about my business, I give and bequeath to the said Sir Thomas and Thomas White Saunders, his son, a little salt of beryl glass set in silver and gilt;

And all such evidences, writings, escripts and muniments as do in any wise appertain or belong to Mr Matthew Poyntz, my son-in-law [=stepson], or to the said Robert Poyntz, my son, or to any of them which be now in my custody and keeping within the parsonage house of Reigate aforesaid, I will shall be truly delivered to the said Matthew and Robert, their heirs and assigns, by my executors and overseers for the better discharge of my conscience therein;

Item, to all my household servants which shall happen to be with me at the time of my death, I give and bequeath to every of them half a year's wages over and besides their wages then due;

And all my corn and cattle remaining after my funerals, debts and legacies paid and discharged, I will shall be equally divided amongst my said children;

Item, to every of my bigger maids as much wool as will make every of them a petticoat;

And to Alice Costicke and Kathrine Bodle [-to] I give a piece of red for petticoats;

And to my daughter Skinner I give my best gown of damask;

And to Alice Gosticke a gown of russels;

Item, my will is farther that where my husband Skinner willed thirty pounds to be bestowed amongst the poor of his kin, whereof there is fifteen pounds paid by my cousin Skinner of the Dodds and myself, the other fifteen pounds I would should be bestowed as hereafter followeth, that is to Alice Costick and her two sisters six pounds, to Henry Kenerege forty shillings, and to Katherine Geynishe other forty shillings, and the rest of the said fifteen pounds to be equally bestowed amongst Kitchin's children;

Item, to Katherine Bodell twenty shillings and a gown;

Item, to my daughter Eliot an old cassock of tawny damask;

The residue of all my goods and chattels not before given or bequeathed whatsoever they be, my funerals, debts and legacies paid and discharged, and after equal division had and made between my said children, I leave wholly to be disposed and employed in deeds of charity amongst the poor by the discretion of John Skinner, my son-in-law, and Robert Poyntz, my son, and Thomas Saunders, my brother, in the absence of my son, Robert Poyntz, whom I do ordain and make executors of this my present last will and testament;

And overseers thereof I make and ordain my said well-beloved brother, Sir Thomas Saunders, knight, and my cousin, John Skinner of Reigate th' elder, esquire, requiring them to be aiding and assisting in the true performance of this my last will and testament;

And if any ambiguity or doubt shall happen to arise and be made upon any clause, sentence, article or word contained in this testament, that then my mind and express will is that the same shall be expounded and declared by the said Thomas Saunders and John Skinner th' elder, with such as they shall call to counsel for the same;

In witness whereof I, the said Margaret Skinner, have subscribed this my present last will and testament the 22nd day of September in the fifth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., and in the year of Our Lord God 1563. Margaret Skinner. Witness: Sir Thomas Saunders, knight, with other.

Probatum fuit fuit [sic] suprascriptu{m} testamentu{m} coram Mag{ist}ro Waltero Haddon Legu{m} Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantu{ariensis} Com{m}issari{o} apud London iijjo die mensis Iulij Anno Domini Mill{es}imo Quingentesimo sexagesimo quarto Iuramento Iohannis Skynner et Roberti Poyntz executoru{m} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}at{orum} Quibus commissa fuit administracio omniu{m} bonoru{m} &c De bene &c Ac de pleno et fideli Inventario &c Necnon de plano &c Iurat{is}

[The above-written testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the 4th day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-fourth by the oath of John Skinner and Robert Poyntz, executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods etc., sworn to well etc., and [+to prepare] a full and faithful inventory etc., and also [+to render] a plain [+and true account] etc.]